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FOR RELEASE: 23 December 1971

92-311

FROM: Kika de la Garza

WASHINGTON, D. C.--Christmas is above all a time for remembering--for thinking with love and kindness of family and friends, for calling up memories of Christmases past and giving thanks for Christmas present.

Christmas is a time for pondering with spiritual joy the origin of this greatest of all celebrations. The Gospel according to Luke gives a moving account of the beginning of the greatest story the world has ever known:

"And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

"And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

"And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were sore afraid.

"And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for behold, I bring you tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

* * * * *

MERRY CHRISTMAS!--The old, old words have this year and every year a new significance as people of all ages exchange the greetings of the season. The spirit of Christmas never dies, never ages, is always fresh and vibrant. It is in this spirit, and with a heart filled with thankfulness for being blessed with such wonderful friends, that I say to all South Texans and especially to those men and women in military service who cannot be home this year: Feliz Navidad and:

A Merry, Merry Christmas to all!

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